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GDR PEOPLE'S POLICE LAUNCHES NEW RECRUITING DRIVE -- New York, Staats-Zeitung und Herold, 31 Oct 53

Erfurt -- An intensive recruiting drive has been under way in all districts of the GDR for the Garrisoned People's Police and for the Ordnungspolizei (Regular Police). The new recruiting drive is to result in a considerable increase of the entire police apparatus and of the troops of the Garrisoned People's Police.

The SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany) has ordered the participation of each party member in the campaign. A circular stated that the 17 June uprisings have shown that the Regular Police of the GDR must be strengthened, in order to be able to deal with any repeated attempts by enemies. The recruiting drive is to concentrate on those born between 1913 and 1933. It is pointed out, however, that special lists are to be made of those between the ages of 17 and 29. The recruiting commissions, appointed by the Kreis Secretariats and operating in the plants, have been reminded of their duty to speak to every worker and to report whether there is any possibility of placing him in the Garrisoned People's Police. The circular also stated that party secretaries have not fully realized the importance of the People's Police recruitment drive, which is under way at present, and that the deficient work of the recruiting commissions must stop.

SED CHIEF ADMITS SPREADING FALSE RUMORS IN WEST -- [West] Berlin, Neue Zeitung, 16 Sep 53

Heinz Marchen, chief of the Agitation Department of the East Berlin SED, admitted on 14 September to editors of the East Berlin press that his agents [in West Germany] are deliberately spreading false reports. He stated that it was the task of his office "to make the readers of the Western press uncertain and to deprive the Western press of its reputation of credibility which it still maintains among many of our comrades." One false report in a Western newspaper and a denial printed by an Eastern paper are worth more than two editorials, he added. Upon a question by an editor, Marchen openly stated that it was perfectly permissible to confuse an opponent by the spreading of deliberate misinformation.

GDR PARTY MEMBERS REFUSE TO OBEY ORDERS -- [West] Berlin, Berliner Morgenpost, 19 Sep 53

Berlin, 19 September (DPA) -- Taeschner, secretary-general of the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) in the GDR, has stated to the political committee of the party that party members are refusing to obey the orders of the party's central committee and in many cases are even actively opposing these orders. He warned all party members that they would be expelled if they went to West Berlin for food packages.

SED MEMBERS PROTEST AGAINST NIGHT ALERT DUTIES -- [West] Berlin, Neue Zeitung, 23 Sep 53

The first secretaries of the Kreis offices of the SED have protested against the night alert duties assigned to them by the SED Central Committee. They have submitted documents showing that the constant night alerts of SED members in over 100 people-owned plants, in effect since 17 June, have cost several million marks. During the past 3 months, officials and members of the SED have been called on by the plant offices of the party for so-called night missions, which had to be paid for by the plants at overtime rates.

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The SED District Offices recommended that the plant offices keep a permanent alert group (Alarmgruppe) to strengthen the regular plant guards and patrol the plant area. These SED patrols are usually equipped with lead-filled rubber hoses and are supposed to prevent raids on government buildings and people-owned plants and to oppose provocations. However, a number of Kreis secretaries have found out that these alert groups disrupt production and that their nocturnal activities irritate the population. Furthermore, instructors of the Berlin-Weissensee Kreis Office, on a night inspection tour, found that half of the guards were either sleeping or were intoxicated. When reprimanded for their dereliction of duty, the guards stated that they did not bear the constant state of alert unless they were drunk.

SOVIET DEFECTOR REPORTS ON GDR CONDITIONS -- Genoa, Corriere Mercantile, 21 Aug 53

According to Maj I. N. Ronshin, former Soviet commanding officer of a battalion in the 4th Division who escaped to West Berlin last April, the 17 June riots in East Berlin were of great importance because they showed Soviet troops that the demonstrators were not capitalist agents but actual workers. This explains, he said, why most of the Red soldiers ignored the order to fire on the workers.

Despite severe restrictions, many Soviet soldiers seek contact with the German people in order to understand Western life, the major continued. He said that for men in small provincial garrisons it is easier to make these contacts, since they are permitted to enter semiprivate rooms in public places.

According to Ronshin, during the entire period that Soviet officers are in the occupation zone, they are not allowed to wear civilian clothes, enter restaurants, cabarets, private homes, tailor shops, etc. However, about 25 percent have succeeded in coming in contact with the German people. Major Ronshin added that of the 27 officers in his garrison unit at Eberswalde, 25 regularly visited German acquaintances.

Questioned on Soviet policy regarding East Germany, Major Ronshin strongly denied any possibility that the Soviets would voluntarily leave the GDR and referred to a conference in which the commanding officers of autonomous units and generals, including army corps commanders, participated. At this meeting, a lieutenant general from Moscow, replying to a division commander, stated that the Occupation Army in the GDR must be ready, if necessary, to start a war from there. In reply to a question as to whether the Soviet Army was strong enough, Major Ronshin answered in the affirmative but added that Soviet soldiers were not ready to conduct a new war.

COMMUNIST RETURNS FROM GDR, RESIGNS POST -- Amsterdam, Het Vrije Volk, 11 Sep 53

Three weeks ago, Karl Mans, vice-chairman of the Communist Party in the district of Tirschenreuth, West Germany, went to the GDR to study political conditions there. He was the guest of East German labor unions. He returned yesterday evening and today turned in his resignation as a party functionary. "I saw enough to gather an impression of the catastrophic conditions in the GDR," he explained.

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